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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/874,037      | 06/06/2001  | Yasurou Matsuzaki    | 100353-00064        | 7606             |

7590 08/02/2007  
ARENT FOX KINTNER PLOTKIN & KAHN, PLLC  
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20036-5339

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| EXAMINER |
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NGUYEN, HAI L

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|

2816

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|-----------|---------------|
| MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
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08/02/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

|                              |                                      |   |  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b><br>09/874,037 | <b>Applicant(s)</b><br>MATSUZAKI, YASUROU |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b><br>Hai L. Nguyen     | <b>Art Unit</b><br>2816                   |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 February 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 4-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 4-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 4-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 4 is indefinite because of the limitations “a phase adjustment circuit generating a second clock so that a phase adjustment signal output from a first semiconductor device that is one of the semiconductor device and a first clock have a predetermined phase relationship”, on lines 4-6; and “wherein said phase adjustment circuit adjusts a phase of the second clock such as to fix a relative phase difference between the phase adjustment signal and the first clock”. It is unclear because it cannot be determined what is being claimed here. Since these limitations are contrary from one to another.

Claims 5-24 are rejected due to their dependencies on claim 4.

Claim 25 is indefinite because of the limitations “a wiring board on which the modules are mounted; and a dummy output load line serving as loads of dummy output data output from the modules, wherein the modules comprise a module including; a semiconductor devices, one of which is a first semiconductor device that outputs a phase adjustment signal; a phase adjustment circuit which receives the phase adjustment signal output from said first semiconductor device and a first clock supplied from an exterior of said module, and generates a second clock, the second clock being supplied to the semiconductor devices; and a wiring board on which the

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semiconductor devices and the phase adjustment circuit are mounted”, on lines 4-6, (Emphasis added). It is unclear because it cannot be determined what is being claimed here.

Claims 26 and 27 are rejected due to their dependencies on claim 25.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Riordan et al. (US 5,317,601).

With regard to claim 2, Riordan et al. discloses in Figs. 1-4 a module comprising a semiconductor device (25(12)); a phase adjustment circuit (40) which receives a phase adjustment signal output (SyncPLL) from said semiconductor device and a first clock (MasterClockin) supplied from an exterior of said module, and generates a second clock; and an output circuit that is provided in the semiconductor device and generates the phase adjustment signal from the second clock, wherein said phase adjustment circuit adjusts a phase of the second clock such as to fix relative phase difference between the phase adjustment signal and the first clock, wherein said semiconductor device is a semiconductor memory device including an output buffer from which data stored in memory cells are output in synchronism with the second clock (see column 2, line 53 through column 4, line 27).

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***Conclusion***

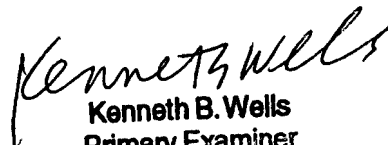
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hai L. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-1747 and Right Fax number is 571-273-1747. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursdays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew Richards can be reached on 571-272-1736. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

6. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HLN

July 23, 2007

  
Kenneth B. Wells  
Primary Examiner